



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES ANDREA HOLTHOUSE CHENG TO SERVE AS
COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT**

CHICAGO – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today announced Andrea Holthouse Cheng as the next Commissioner of the Department of Water Management (DWM). Cheng, who began working with the City in 2004, will take over the lead role in the water department after serving as Acting Commissioner since January of 2021.

"Andrea is a devoted public servant who has spent the past 16 years helping our city's water department in every aspect of the purification and distribution process," said Mayor Lightfoot. "As a skilled engineer and a national expert in the water industry, Andrea has a deep understanding of not only the necessity of providing water services to our residents in an equitable and practical way, but the science behind it as well. I want to congratulate Andrea on her new role and couldn't be prouder to have someone like her lead the water department into its new era."

During her time at DWM, Cheng has overseen multiple, large-scale research projects related to corrosion control of lead and managed capital plan projects like the \$15 M construction of the new Water Purification Labs. She developed the nation's largest 311 lead kit sampling program and the city's water filter distribution program. Cheng is also managing the development and implementation of the multi-year, multi-billion-dollar plan to replace the almost 380,000 residential lead service lines in Chicago.

"I am thrilled and honored that Mayor Lightfoot is entrusting me with the leadership of the Department of Water Management," said acting commissioner Dr. Andrea Cheng. "It will be my priority to promote professionalism and create diversity in our workforce so that we are prepared for new challenges like expanding regional growth and launching lead service line replacement. I am passionate about water. I take great pride in the almost 17 years that I have already served this department and look forward to leading one of the largest water utilities in the world to the next level."



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Cheng has over 16 years of experience with DWM, first serving as a filtration engineer where she focused on corrosion control and aluminum precipitation. Prior to her most recent role as Deputy Commissioner, Cheng served as a water quality manager where she oversaw the Water Quality Surveillance Section and Water Purification Labs, for a total of 51 positions. She also served as a water research specialist where coordinated research and analysis efforts for the Department, with a focus on lead and phosphate research.

Cheng is a nationally recognized expert on issues related to water quality and has been published 40 times on the subject. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Class A Public Water Supply Operator. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she earned a B.S. in Civil (Environmental) Engineering, and the University of Texas at Austin where she earned a M.S. and a Ph.D. in Civil (Environmental) Engineering.

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